AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE, AND LISTING OF ALL CLAIMS WITH PROPER IDENTIFIERS

1. (Currently amended)   A project design method for automating a control sequence in a configurable system with a plurality of components, the components capable of exchanging at regular time intervals during the control sequence information with another of the components via communication relationships, comprising the steps of:

    with the system, based on a topology and a functionality of the components communicated to the system by a user input, selecting exactly one system project design from a plurality of system project designs, with the selected system project design containing exactly one component project design for each component of the system;

    designing each of the components in the system according to the corresponding component project design; [[and]]

    causing each of the components to implement the communication relationships to the other components according to the component project design of the particular component,

    testing the communication relationships to the other components and, if the communication relationships to the other components are successfully established, transmitting a confirmation message to a central unit and, upon receipt of an activation command from the central unit, resuming normal operation, and

    if the communication relationships to the other components has errors, transmitting an error message to the central unit.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Previously presented)   The project design method of claim 1, wherein the user input for at least one component includes a default value of a mechanical and/or electrical functionality of the at least one component.

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4.   (Previously presented) The project design method of claim 1, wherein the user input for at least one component includes a default value to cooperate mechanically or electrically, or both, with at least one additional component.

5.   (Canceled).

6.   (Original) The project design method of claim 1, wherein the system automatically determines the topology of the components and aids a user in determining the system project design.

7.   (Currently amended) The project design method of claim 1, wherein [[a]] the central unit reads component codes from the components, said component codes separately identifying the components, and determines the components based on the component code.

8.   (Original) The project design method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of system project designs is centrally stored and the component project designs of the selected system project designs are transmitted to the components.

9.   (Currently amended) The project design method of claim 8, wherein the plurality of system project designs is stored in [[a]] the central unit of the system.

10.   (Original) The project design method of claim 8, wherein the plurality of system project designs is stored external to the system.

11.   (Currently amended) The project design method of claim 1, wherein the component project designs are stored in the corresponding components, and wherein [[a]] the central unit transmits selection commands to the components for selecting the component project designs according to the selected system project design.

12. (Original) The project design method of claim 1, wherein the components activate the communication relationships established by the components based on a common activation command.

13. (Original) The project design method of claim 1, wherein the communication relationships conform to the IRTE protocol.

14. (Original) The project design method of claim 1, wherein at least the topology of the components is made available to an application program for the configurable system.

15.-16. (Canceled)